

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 27th January, 1872.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí*, of the 1st January, learns from a correspondent that two serious cases of robbery attended with murder recently happened in Odeypore. The particulars were these:—On the night of the 15th December, a party of dacoits attacked a soobahdar near the opium factory, killed him with swords, and plundered property valued at Rs. 1,200. The soldiers of the guard stationed at the factory, though close at hand, did not give any help, nor even raise a cry, which had they done, the poor man's life would have been saved, and the thieves would not have dared to commit a robbery in such a bold manner. In the other case, which happened the following night at Nagur Taree at the back of the Maharajah's palace, a Brahman woman was murdered by thieves for the sake of her goods.

The correspondent expresses his regret that, while for a few months past daring robberies have been committed in the districts belonging to Mewar, cases such as the above now happen in the city itself; and thinks it a matter of great regret that the State should still be so far enveloped in the darkness of barbarism that the killing of a man should there be regarded as a trifling affair, and the ruling power should not be feared.

A correspondent of the *Almorah Akhbár*, of the 15th January, invites the attention of Government to the impropriety

of wasting a large sum of money every year in meeting the expenses of witnesses who have to attend the High Court to give evidence in cases of Europeans accused of a crime. In all such cases the preliminary investigations are conducted by Magistrates in their capacity of Justices of the Peace, after which the offenders are committed to the High Court for trial, where the presence of witnesses is indispensable. The writer objects to this procedure, and remarks that, since the power of holding preliminary investigations in these cases is vested in Magistrates, there seems to be no reason why they should not go up to Sessions Judges for trial. In his opinion they should be tried by the Judges with the help of European Assessors, after which appeals can be lodged in the High Court. This plan, while it will not impair justice, will save Government needless expense.

The *Samay Vinod*, of the same date, notices with approval the order of the Government of Bengal empowering Moonsiffs and Subordinate Judges to cash their salary and establishment bills at Government treasuries under their own signatures, in the same way as other public officers, without the countersignature of the District Judge; and is of opinion that a similar rule should be enforced in the North-Western Provinces.

The *Márwār Gazette*, of the same date, states, on the authority of the *Gujarat Mitra*, that a marriage party in its way to Nagpore, a village in the Gaekwar's territory, was attacked by a gang of Bheels of Talooqa Madwee, who ravished all the women accompanying the procession in the presence of their husbands, and then made off with 2,000 rupees worth of property. The editor of the *Márwār Gazette* remarks that, if the news is true, the police management of the State deserves the bitterest reproach, and takes this occasion to throw the heaviest censure on some Native states for suffering the people subject to them to be thus plundered and maltreated without steps being taken to put a check to the abuse. The attention of the English Government is invited to the matter, and it is remarked that,

while lengthy communications are received from it in the matter of *suttes* and female infanticide, no notice is taken by it of theft and dacoity.

In its column of local news, the same paper asserts that robberies still prevail in the confines of the city (Jodhpore). Only lately a dacoity was committed on the Pali Road, and a fresh case has now happened near Mouzah Salwa, a party of travellers having been plundered of their goods. The editor remarks that, unless efficient measures are adopted by the Government of Marwar, and persons of the Baoree caste, living under the protection of some of the jagheerdars, who are professional thieves, are banished from the territory, the security of the life and property of travellers cannot be ensured; and has strong hopes that the attention of the Government will be drawn to the matter.

The *Qudh Akhbár*, of the 16th January, states that Qazee Mahmood Jan, a gentleman of Peshawur, who was convicted of the crime of abducting a woman and murdering another, and, after being released on furnishing a security of Rs. 4,000, fled to Cabul through fear of punishment, has recently returned to Peshawur and obtained his acquittal on paying a fine of Rs. 500 to Government, and a compensation amounting to Rs. 100 and Rs. 50, respectively, to the husbands of the murdered and the abducted woman, in addition to the costs incurred by both in the prosecution of the suits. The editor remarks that the Qazee's crime was not of a nature to be pardoned in this way, and that such extreme indulgence has most probably been shown him at the recommendation of the Ameer of Cabul.

The *Urdu Akhbár* of the same date, in continuation of the communicated article on the scantiness of water in the city of Umballa, which appeared in the foregoing number of that paper and was noticed in the *Selections* for the week preceding, states that in the environs of the city good water can be got in plenty, while in places where it is scarce, efficient arrange-

ments have been made by *punchayets* for supplying the want, either by digging tanks or otherwise. This circumstance throws all the more blame on the municipality of Umballa. It is a great shame that, while the places around it are well provided with water, the city, which is populous, and is the resort of numbers of persons who come there to prosecute their suits and for other purposes, and where so many European officers live, should be sadly in want of this necessary of life. The project for bringing a canal into the city has more than once been started, but has ended in smoke. It is much to be regretted that the municipal committee, while it is so alive to promoting the prospects of the city in trade as to cause a market to be held monthly, at which all kinds of things are brought for sale, and rewards are bestowed on merchants who have good things to show, has paid no attention to the crying complaint of want of water. The want is one which ought to have been taken into consideration before everything else, and the money now laid out in giving encouragement to trade and in other ways would have been far better spent in supplying it. In the writer's opinion the committee should take steps for introducing a canal into the city, the cost to be met, half from the municipal funds, and half from subscriptions to be raised from the people.

In its summary of news, the same paper reports that a dacoity recently took place in Peshawur at the house of the Translator of the Commissioner's office in the day time. The loss is estimated at Rs. 5,000.

The frightful prevalence of cholera in Pindee Bhutteen (Punjab), to which a large number of men are stated to have fallen victims, and the severe hail-storm which occurred in Pak Puttun and Moozuffernugger and caused the death of a large number of animals, are also noticed.

The *Nasim-i-Jounpore*, of the same date, in its column of local news, states that on the night of the 11th January a party of bad characters, thirty or forty in number, who were armed

with clubs, forced their way into the godown of Abdool Gha-
nee, leather merchant, which is situated near Chittersaree, beat
the men who were there at the time, wounding the owner and
one of his servants in the hand, and then broke open a box
and took out all the money in it, amounting to Rs. 150 or
175. Not content with this booty, they collected all the clothes
and other things of value in the godown, packed them in a
bundle, and then made off.

The *Jalwa-i-Tur*, of the same date, invites the attention
of the municipal committee of Meerut to the following nui-
sance in the khairnuggur bazaar of that city. A fish-seller at
Mohammed Yar's shop is in the habit of cutting fish into
pieces and exposing them to public view, without covering them
with cloth—a sight extremely disgusting to passers-by. The
committee lately published a notice making it compulsory on all
who keep shops for the sale of things of the kind to cover them
with cloth, or else hang a screen at the door, on pain, if they
failed to do so, of being liable to a fine.

Close to this shop is another, used by a worker in leather,
who is accustomed to throw the water left after washing the
leather into the drain at the side of the shop, which emits a
bad smell. The attention of the municipal committee is invited
to the abuses.

The *Benares Akhbār* of the 18th January, in its column
of local news, reports the frequency of thefts in the city. Per-
sons of the Domra caste, who are employed in the public
latrines, chiefly commit the crime. They steal both in the day
and night time. The writer asks if the practice of detaining
such persons at police stations at night has been discontinued,
and remarks that if the police were to direct their attention to
the evil, it would be no difficult matter to put a check to it.

The popular report that two European soldiers fell from
the Chunar fort into the river beneath while in a state of
intoxication, and no trace of them could be found, is also
noticed.

Under the heading "Burhanpore," the *Oudh Akhbār* of the 19th January states that, on the night of the 12th idem, a burglary was committed at the house of Ram Bhao, putwaree, in Mohulla Sunwara, and property valued at Rs. 2,000 carried away. Three boxes were stolen, one of which contained cash amounting to Rs. 1,200, and the other two had jewels and clothes in them. The thieves took out the valuable contents, and threw the boxes with some clothes into the Pindrawal rivulet, outside the city, which has now dried up. The police made search after the thieves, but no trace of them was found.

A correspondent of the same paper criticises the new order of the Postal Department making it compulsory to register all letters containing stamps, currency notes, or other valuable papers, on pain, if the senders fail to do so, of a fine of double the amount of the registration fee. The writer, while he approves of the order as being well calculated to prevent loss of currency notes, &c., thinks it improper that letters containing things of trifling value should be subject to registration. A large number of persons, especially those who send for books from presses, have frequent need of transmitting a few annas' worth of postage stamps, and in such cases it is certainly a grievance that a registration fee of four annas should have to be paid. Suppose, for instance, a person sends for a copy of an Urdu or Hindee almanac from a press, the price of which is one anna, he will have to pay four times the amount of the price for registration, which is indeed very hard. Few persons will choose to spend five annas for a book worth only one anna, and thus the effect of the rule will prove injurious. A large class of books, the value of which seldom exceeds eight annas, and which, therefore, command an extensive sale, will remain unsold, while the growing taste for books will be discouraged, and the income of the Postal Department will likewise suffer.

Under these circumstances, the writer recommends that letters containing papers of a small value up to a certain limit, say two rupees, should be exempted from registration.

The *Panjábi Akhbár*, of the 20th January, notices a case of dacoity in Jeypore. A native banker of Kishungurh, while travelling in a carriage from that city to his native town with a few attendants, on arriving near Dodo, was attacked by a party of dacoits, who plundered him of all his property, worth Rs. 6,000, and inflicted such severe wounds on seven of the attendants, who made a stand against them, that two of them are not expected to survive. The case is under investigation.

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 23rd January, in its column of local news, reports the sinking of a ferry-boat in the Gloomtee on the 7th idem. A large number of passengers were drowned, and only three were taken out alive through the exertions of the police, who arrived at the spot in time.

The *Matla-i-Nur* of the same date, notices the unfair practice resorted to by two police constables of Cawnpore, named Sheo Lal and Prag, in order to make money. A party of bad characters managed to borrow a large quantity of ornaments, and with a scale and weights, held a kind of banker's shop at a place outside the city. They won over the constables to their party, on promise of giving them half of their unlawful gains, which were acquired by the following plan. They used to send one of their number to the city, who induced covetous mahajuns to accompany him with money to the so-called shop to purchase ornaments, by telling them that valuable things could be got there for only half the real price. As soon as the mahajuns reached the spot, and were in the course of settling the bargain, the constables appeared at the spot on the pretence of stolen goods being sold there. The alarm thus given of course dispersed the whole party, thereby giving opportunity to the constables to seize the ornaments and the money left at the place by the sellers and the purchasers. The latter thought their deliverance a sufficient return for the money lost, which the constables and the *bud-mashes* afterwards divided equally among them. This practice

continued for five or six months, during which time the constables raised several hundred rupees, till at last a person who had been cheated of his money in the aforesaid way reported the matter to a head constable, when the conspiracy was detected. The constables and their partners in the crime are under arrest, and the case is before the court. The editor expresses his regret that police employes, who are appointed expressly for checking crime, should themselves covertly commit such serious offences.

EDUCATIONAL

The *Urdu Akhbár*, of the 16th January, praises the Maharaja of Bulrampore and Tulseepore for taking an active interest in the spread of learning, of which he has given a singular proof in issuing an order that all boys attending the paupers from different places, who come to him to beg food and winter clothes, should be taught to read and write in his schools, the guardians of all such boys being supplied with the necessaries of life all the while their sons study at the schools.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 19th January, has been informed that a petty zemindar of Rajshahye has given an endowment of a jagheer yielding a revenue of Rs. 500 annually to a school, on the condition that it should be raised to the status of a High School. The editor sets up this act of the zemindar as a convincing proof that knowledge is now truly appreciated by the natives of India, and takes this occasion to disprove the common belief that the large sums of money spent by native chiefs and princes in the cause of education are laid out simply for show, and not with a sincere desire to promote learning.

The *Shola-i-Túr*, of the 23rd January, is surprised to find that, while Government takes great care to exclude from the books forming the curriculum of its schools and colleges, all love-pieces of an immoral tendency, it should have suffered obscene subjects to remain unexcluded from the Arabic courses

of study. As an example of this may be mentioned the tale of the slave and maid-servant in verse in the *Sullam-ul-Adab*, beginning اني رأيتك في المنام كأنما إلهخ ("Verily, I saw thee in a dream, as it were.") This tale is so obscene that teachers are ashamed to translate it literally to their pupils. Other objectionable pieces of a similar kind are to be met with in the book. The writer believes the educational authorities are not aware of the fact, and invites their attention to it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Oudh Akhbār*, of the 19th January, is glad to observe that the example set by it to its vernacular contemporaries in publishing an editorial on the recent illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in which prayers were preferred to the Almighty for his recovery, and the people of India were exhorted to bestow alms and propitiatory offerings to the poor for his salvation, has been earnestly followed by them and produced the desired result. Many of the editors of Indian newspapers reproduced the editorial in their papers, while others published similar articles of their own on the subject. The result has been that the people of all cities, as well as the chiefs and princes of the Native States in India, with one mind, engaged themselves in prayer and devotion, and spent large sums of money in charity, not from any inducement on the part of Government, but of their free will and pleasure. This behaviour of Her Majesty's Indian subjects is a convincing proof of their loyalty and devotion to their sovereign, and it is on such occasions that their allegiance and good faith towards the British Government are fully displayed. Never were so many voices raised in prayer for the greatest emperor on earth as have been preferred for the Prince's recovery. About one-fourth of the whole world wished him well, and, thanks to God, the prayers of the vast millions of people have been accepted, and the Prince is fast regaining strength.

The writer takes this occasion to express his regret that, notwithstanding the superior enlightenment of Englishmen,

there are some parties in England who, being advocates of republicanism, cherished ill-will towards the prince, thinking the threatened danger friendly to their designs. Fortunately, no such evil-minded persons are to be found among the Indian subjects, and in this point of view, at least, the half-civilized people of this country are superior to the English subjects of the British Government.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz.:—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	<i>Nasir-i-Akbar,</i>	Urdu,	Bijnour,	Weekly,	Decr. 28th	1872.
2	<i>Rohilkhund Samáchar Patr,</i>	Hindee,	Moradabad,	Ditto,	" 30th	January 24th
3	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i>	Urdu-Hindee,	Gwalior,	Ditto,	" 31st	" 22nd
4	<i>Jagat Samáchar,</i>	Hindee,	Meerut,	Ditto,	Jany. 1st	" 22nd
5	<i>Dabdaba-i-Sikandari,</i>	Urdu,	Rampore,	Ditto,	" 1st	" 22nd
6	<i>Matla-i-Nur,</i>	Ditto,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 2nd	" 22nd
7	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 5th	" 25th
8	<i>Rohilkhund Samáchar Patr,</i>	Hindee,	Moradabad,	Weekly,	" 6th	" 24th
9	<i>Najm-ul-Akbbár,</i>	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 8th	" 27th
10	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 12th	" 22nd
11	<i>Rajputana Social Science Congress,</i>	Ditto,	Jaipore,	Weekly,	" 12th	" 22nd
12	<i>Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq,</i>	Ditto,	Allypurg,	Not-fixed,	" 12th	" 23rd
13	<i>Rohilkhund Akhbár,</i>	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Weekly,	" 13th	" 24th
14	<i>Dabdaba-i-Sikandari,</i>	Ditto,	Rampore,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 22nd
15	<i>Jagat Samáchar,</i>	Hindee,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 22nd
16	<i>Samaya Vinod,</i>	Ditto,	Nyneer Tal,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 22nd
17	<i>Almorah Akhbár,</i>	Urdu-Hindee,	Almorah,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 22nd
18	<i>Amir-ul-Akbbár,</i>	Urdu,	Loharoo,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 22nd
19	<i>Kárnámah,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Weekly,	" 15th	" 22nd
20	<i>Pattiala Akhbár,</i>	Ditto,	Pattiala,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 22nd
21	<i>Márvár Gazette,</i>	Urdu-Hindee,	Jodhpore,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 24th
22	<i>Supplement to Lawrence Gazette,</i>	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 2nd week	" 22nd
23	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 16th	" 22nd
24	<i>Naf-ul-Azém,</i>	Arabic,	Lahore,	Weekly,	" 16th	" 22nd
25	<i>Matla-i-Nur,</i>	Urdu,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 16th	" 22nd
26	<i>Shola-i-Túr,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 16th	" 22nd

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
27	Urdu Akhbār,	Urdu,	Delhi,	Weekly,	1872.	1872.
28	Nasim-i-Jaunpore,	Ditto,	Jounpore,	Ditto,	Jany. 16th	22nd
29	Jalwa-i-Tūr,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 16th	22nd
30	Khair Khawāh-i-Panjāb,	Ditto,	Gujranwalla,	Ditto,	" 16th	22nd
31	Akhbār-i-Am,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 17th	27th
32	Benares Akhbār,	Hindee,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 18th	22nd
33	Akhbār-i-Alam,	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 18th	23rd
34	Lawrence Gazette,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 19th	22nd
35	Allygurh Institute Gazette,	Urdu-English,	Allygurh,	Ditto,	" 19th	23rd
36	Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb,	Urdu,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 19th	24th
37	Oudh Akhbār,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 19th	25th
38	Panjabi Akhbār,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Weekly,	" 20th	23rd
39	Urdū Delhi Gazette,	Ditto,	Agra,	Ditto,	" 20th	23rd
40	Meerut Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 20th	23rd
41	Koh-i-Nūr,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 20th	24th
42	Muir Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 20th	24th
43	Majma-ul-Bahrain,	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto,	" 20th	24th
44	Dabdaba-i-Sikandarī,	Ditto,	Rampore,	Ditto,	" 22nd	25th
45	Jagat Samāchar,	Hindee,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 22nd	26th
46	Oudh Akhbār,	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 23rd	25th
47	Nasim-i-Jaunpore,	Ditto,	Jounpore,	Weekly,	" 23rd	25th
48	Naf-ul-Azim,	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 23rd	26th
49	Shola-i-Tūr,	Urdu,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 23rd	26th
50	Matla-i-Nūr,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 23rd	26th
51	Jalwa-i-Tūr,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 24th	27th
52	Benares Akhbār,	Hindee,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 25th	27th

ALLAHABAD: }
The 10th February, 1872.

SOHAN LALL,
Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.